

## John Travers Baum (1920 -1943)

John T. Baum attended Chaffey High School, Ontario, Ca." & St. John's Military Academy, L.A prior to WWII.

John Baum was a pilot of a B-17 and assigned to the 550<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron, 385<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He was the co-pilot of a B-17 "Flying Fortress" bomber aircraft. This bomber group flew 297 combat missions over France and Germany between June 11,1943 and May 2,1945. This bomber group flew from Great Ashfield airdrome located in Suffolk, England. A crew consisted of four officers, and six enlisted.

Their mission on 16 September, 1943 is included in the following USAAF report:

1. 131 of 147 B-17's dispatched hit two targets in Nantes; 79 hit Nantes harbor installations at 1502-1512 hours and 52 hit Nantes/Chateau-Bougon Airfield at 1509-1512 hours; they claim 22-2-5 Luftwaffe aircraft; 7 B-17's are lost, 1 is damaged beyond repair and 47 are damaged; casualties are 9 WIA and 60 MIA. This mission is escorted by 79 P-47's; they claim 2-0-1 Luftwaffe aircraft and suffer no losses or casualties.
2. 93 of 148 B-17's hit La Pallice harbor installations at 1755-1758 hours, Larochelle/Laleau Airfield at 1755-1758 and ognac/Chateaubernard Airfield at 1731 hours; they claim 22-3-8 Luftwaffe aircraft; 4 B-17's are lost, 5 damaged beyond repair and 17 damaged; casualties are 44 KIA, 9 WIA and 30 MIA.

He died in reduced visibility in the early evening on September 16, 1943 as a result of his B-17 having a mid-air collision with another bomber from the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group at Rickingham, England. The nickname of the aircraft was named the "Mary Ellen II" and the serial number of the aircraft was # 42-30601.

He is now buried in Portland, Oregon (interred in 1949)

